



*Outgoing AL-MS Section Chairman Alan Lowrey (left) passes on the Chairmans Plaque to the incoming Chairman, Dr. Arloe Mayne.*

## ***From the Chairman...***

Over the past three years I have successively been the Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-Chairman of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the AIAA. When I became the Chairman this year, I jokingly told my wife that the Directors and other officers did all of the work, and that the Chairman's function was to think lofty strategic thoughts. From the level of effort that I had seen put into the Chairman's job by Alan Lowrey and the other Chairmen that I observed, I knew this wasn't actually the case, but I am counting on the continued efforts of the Board of Directors we have this year. As with all organizations run by volunteers, its success depends very strongly on the self-motivated efforts of those volunteers.

The AL-MS Section operates on a year that runs from 1 June to 31 May. In June, new officers and Board members begin their terms and we submit our budget for the upcoming year and a report of our financial activities for the past year to AIAA headquarters. Typically, we have fewer Board meetings and other activities in the summer, but the Section's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on 25 July was a notable exception to that practice. I would like to once again thank Wanda Reece for the fine job she did in organizing that event.

Tom Hancock, a previous Chairman of the Section, has agreed to serve as the Vice-Chairman for this year. The Vice-Chairman's primary responsibility is to plan and conduct the Section's general meetings. Tom has begun considering speakers for this year, and if you have a speaker that you would like to recommend, please let Tom or me

know about them. We would also like to hear any comments or suggestions you may have about other aspects of our meetings, such as location, lunch vs. dinner, etc.

Steve Noneman, our Honors and Awards Director, is currently planning our Annual Great Paper Airplane Contest, which will be held in a couple of months. The specifics will be in a separate announcement, and volunteers will be solicited to serve as judges. Among other activities this year, the Section will again be supporting the Great Moonbuggy Race; we expect to award our second set of engineering scholarships; and the Board is considering topics for a seminar of the nature of the System Engineering Seminar that we co-hosted in 2001.

Attendance at our General Meetings this past year ranged from 19 to 55 attendees, with an average of 36. This was a decline from the previous year, when the average was about 67. Much of this decline may be attributable to the tragedy of 11 September 2001, which has been said to have generally decreased travel, attendance at public events, etc. A directly related factor in our case is that we have not been able to hold meetings open to all of our members at the Redstone Officers Club, whose convenience and affordability attracted members to meetings held there. Interestingly, attendance figures have not shown any particular trend regarding lunch versus dinner meetings. During 2000-2001, the average attendance at the five dinner meetings was 84, and the average attendance at the four lunch meetings was 44, while in 2001-2002, the two lunch meetings had a higher average attendance than the six dinner meetings. It appears that most of our meeting attendees come to hear a particular speaker – during 2001-2002, 113 of the 159 people attending one or more meetings, came to only one meeting, and another 21 came to only two meetings. A typical meeting had about a dozen attendees from a core group of about 25 more-or-less "regulars," and about 25 attendees who attended only one or two meetings during the year. I encourage you to broaden your horizons by coming out and mingling at AIAA meetings with some folks whose interests may not be identical with yours.

I wish to thank Alan Lowrey for his very effective leadership as last year's Chairman, and for the excellent condition that the Section is now in. I trust that with the very experienced Board of Directors that we have, the Section can look forward to another successful year.

--Arloe Mayne

## Highlights of the May Awards Dinner

The 50th Annual Alabama-Mississippi Section Awards and Installation Dinner was held on the evening of May 23rd at the Radisson Hotel in Huntsville, AL. The event, which pre-dates the establishment of AIAA, was initially held in 1952 by the Section's predecessor organization, the Alabama Chapter of the American Rocket Society. Among those recognized were new AIAA Fellows and Associate Fellows within the Section, as well as members attaining 25, 40, and 50 years of continuous participation in the AIAA and its predecessor societies. Members reaching their 50-year anniversaries were Mr. Claiborne Hollis, Mr. Carl Loy, and Mr. Irwin Vas.



*NASA MSFC Director, Mr. Art Stephenson (center), stands with 40-anniversary members, Mr. Michael Susko (left) and past Section Chairman, Mr. Carmine DeSanctis.*

Six Section awards, presented annually at this event, recognized individuals who made outstanding contributions to AIAA and the aerospace profession. Mr. Robert Sackheim, Assistant Director and Chief Engineer for Propulsion at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), received the Hermann Oberth Award, named for the eminent rocket pioneer and given for outstanding scientific achievement in the aerospace fields. Mr. Paul Gill, Program Manager for the Technical Standards Program at NASA/MSFC received the Holger Toftoy Award, named for the former Redstone Arsenal commander and early leader of the Army's rocket program, and presented for outstanding technical management. Mr. Bobby Noblitt of TRW (retired) received the Martin Schilling Award, named for the Section's founding president and given for outstanding service to the Section and AIAA in general. Dr. Charles Smith, Deputy Manager of the Systems Engineering and Integration Office for the 2nd Generation RLV Program at NASA/MSFC received the Section's 2002 Aerospace Engineer of the Year Award. Mr. Paul Luz, Lead Systems Engineer for Space Shuttle Payload Integration at NASA/MSFC received the Section's 2002 Young Aerospace Engineer of the Year Award. Finally, Mr.

Donald Monnell, Advanced Engineering Environment Project Manager at NASA/MSFC received the Section's 2002 Software Engineer of the Year Award.



*Mr. Robert Sackheim (right) is presented the Hermann Oberth Award by Chairman Lowrey. The award includes a plaque and a bronze bust of Professor Oberth.*



*Mr. Paul Luz (left) is presented the 2002 Young Aerospace Engineer of the Year Award by Chairman Lowrey.*

An AIAA Special Service Citation was also presented to Ms. Syri Jo Koelfgen of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) for her leadership as Student Organizing Chair for the 2002 AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference, as President of the AIAA student chapter at UAH, and for her service to this Section at large.

An evening highlight was presenting the first recipients of the Section's Engineering Scholarships. Ranging from \$250 to \$1500, the scholarships are for high school seniors living





*Ms. Syri Jo Koelfgen receives the AIAA Special Service Citation from Chairman Lowrey.*

within the Alabama-Mississippi Section, and intent on an engineering career in the aerospace industry. Initial scholarship funding came from proceeds of the Section's March 2001 Systems Engineering Seminar, an event co-sponsored with NASA/MSFC and the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), and the Section's September 2001 Space Launch and Transportation Symposium, an event co-sponsored with NASA/MSFC and the US Air Force Academy. The winners for 2002 were: Mr. Timothy McFalls of Bob Jones High School in Madison, AL, Ms. Carmen Heintzelman of Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School in Montgomery, AL, Mr. Christopher Martin of Poplarville High School in Poplarville, MS, Mr. Justin Rodriguez of Ocean Springs High School in Ocean Springs, MS, and Mr. Joseph Graves of Hartselle High School in Hartselle, AL. Mr. Victor Giuliano of Pratt and Whitney, who spearheaded the creation of the scholarship fund and serves as the Section's Pre-College Outreach Director, presented the scholarships.



*NASA MSFC Director, Mr. Art Stephenson (far right), stands with Section Engineering Scholarship recipients, Ms. Carmen Heintzelman and Mr. Joseph Graves.*

AIAA AL-MS Section. P.O. Box 7208. Huntsville, AL 35807

Finally, as the outgoing chairman, Mr. Alan Lowrey of Lockheed Martin, installed the Section's officers and board members for the 2002-2003 section year. Dr. Arloe Mayne of TRW (retired) was installed as Chairman, Ms. Wanda Reece of Pace & Waite was installed as Secretary, and Ms. Syri Koelfgen of UAH was installed as Treasurer. Mr. John Lassiter of MSFC and Mr. Robert Sackheim of MSFC were installed as new members of the Board of Directors.

## **Space Program Heroes Honored at 50th Anniversary Celebration**

*(courtesy of Ms. Wanda Reece and the Marshall Star)*

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Alabama/Mississippi Section celebrated its 50th anniversary July 25 with a panel discussion by some of the distinguished AIAA leaders who have been instrumental in America's space program. The AIAA is the major aerospace organization in the nation, and its members include aerospace leaders such as von Braun team members, and NASA, Army, and government contractor employees.

Blue-Ribbon Panelists included von Braun team members, Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger and Mr. Konrad Dannenberg; retired Teledyne Brown Engineering CEO, Mr. Joe Moquin; MSFC managers, Mr. Alex McCool and Dr. Ann Whitaker; and General Holger Toftoy's son-in-law, Mr. George K. Williams. The panel members discussed their favorite memories from their careers and America's space program, and their hopes for the future of the AIAA and the space program. Ms. Wanda G. Reece, the section's first Chairwoman and Chair of the Anniversary celebration, was the panel moderator. Mr. Jim Kennedy, MSFC Deputy Director, read letters of congratulations from NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and MSFC Director Art Stephenson. Mr. Howell Lee, District Director of Congressman Bud Cramer's office, presented a proclamation from the Congressman, congratulating the Section on its accomplishments of the last 50 years. Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, who was unable to attend, provided a letter of congratulations, read by Ms. Reece.

Prior to the program, videos of Huntsville's space heroes discussing their memories and hopes for the future, and historical pictures and newsletters from the last 50 years were displayed.

Among those attending the celebration were von Braun team members; Gen. Toftoy's daughter; and Dr. Wernher von Braun's niece, Lisa von Braun. Professor Herrmann Oberth's daughter and the son of Dr. Martin Schilling, the Section's first Chairperson, provided articles read by Mr. Dannenberg in their absence. The AIAA Section's three major awards are named after Gen. Toftoy for leadership; Professor Herrmann Oberth for scientific contributions; and Dr. Martin Schilling for service to the Section.

Also honored were the AIAA Section's 50-year members, former AIAA Section chairpersons, AIAA Fellows, von Braun team members, AIAA Honorary Members, charter MSFC employees, and past MSFC Directors. At the end of the program, Mr. Alex McCool presented Ms. Reece with a framed photograph of a Space Shuttle launch in recognition

of her contributions to the AIAA, including chairing the 50th anniversary. A printed program included a unique history of the AIAA and Huntsville's aerospace heroes, including historical articles and pictures about the AIAA and Huntsville's involvement in America's space program. The event was videotaped for the AIAA's and MSFC's archives.



*Panel members at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner (left to right): Mr. George Williams, Ms. Doris Toftoy Williams, Ms. Wanda Reece, Mr. Howell Lee, Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, Mr. Jim Kennedy, Mr. Konrad Dannenberg, Mr. Joe Moquin, Mr. Alex McCool, and Dr. Ann Whitaker.*

### **AIAA will honor NASA MSFC on October 30**

The membership may recall that in March 2002, the Section received notice that the Marshall Space Flight Center had been selected as an AIAA Historic Aerospace Site. The recognition was possible, in part, thanks to the efforts of the Section's Honors & Awards Director, Steve Noneman of MSFC. Some months earlier, Steve had prepared a site nomination package for the AIAA in consideration of the Apollo Saturn S-IC Test Stand at MSFC. However, in consideration of MSFC's rocket heritage, its establishment in 1960 with the transfer of the Developments Operations Division from the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, the site's numerous and unique test facilities, and the Center's key contributions in the development of the American Space Program, the AIAA national organization determined that the status of Historic Aerospace Site should be given to the entire MSFC complex. An official presentation of this historical recognition, including the unveiling of a bronze plaque from AIAA, will be made on October 30 in the MSFC 4200 Complex. The presentation will be in conjunction with the opening of MSFC's new Heritage Gallery.

### **Paper Airplane Contest set for November 1**

The annual Great Paper Airplane Contest will be held at the UAH University Center Exhibit Hall on Friday, November 1, at 3:30PM - 5:30PM. For more information, contact Steve Noneman, 256-544-2048 ([steven.noneman@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:steven.noneman@msfc.nasa.gov)).

AIAA AL-MS Section. P.O. Box 7208. Huntsville, AL 35807



*More  
Photos  
from  
the  
Section's  
50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*



*Von Braun Team Members (left to right): Mr. Konrad Dannenberg, Mr. Walter Jacobi, Dr. Gerhard Reisig, and Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger.*



*Past Chairmen of the AL-MS Section (left to right): Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, Mr. Konrad Dannenberg, Dr. Arloe Mayne, Ms. Wanda Reece, Mr. Alan Lowrey, Mr. Alfred Wright, Dr. Bob Seitz, Mr. Joe Moquin, Mr. John Lassiter, and Mr. David Rabb.*



*...still more photos...*

*Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger with Ms. Wanda Reece and Ms. Lisa von Braun, niece of the late Dr. Wernher von Braun.*

*Mr. Howell Lee presents Ms. Wanda Reece with a Letter of Congratulations to the Alabama-Mississippi Section from U.S. Congressman Robert "Bud" Cramer of the Alabama 5<sup>th</sup> District.*



*Mr. Alex McCool presents a framed photograph of a Space Shuttle launch to Ms. Wanda Reece for her contributions to the AIAA, including chairing the Section's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

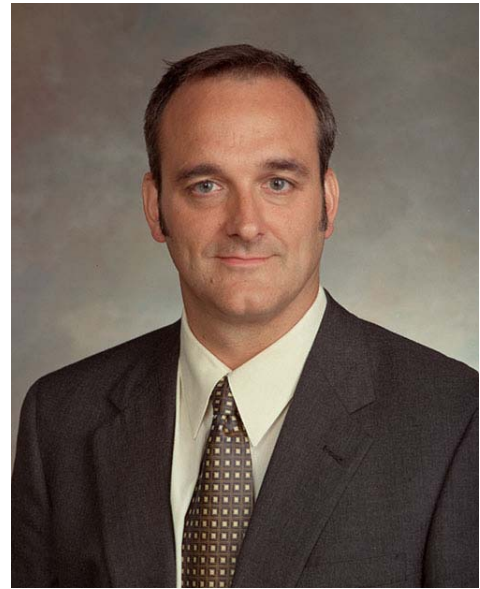


## **AIAA Alabama-Mississippi Section October Luncheon Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2002  
**Time:** 11:00am -1:00pm  
**Location:** The Radisson Suite Hotel  
6000 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL

**Cost:** \$10 (\$5 for students)

**RSVP:** Mr. Tom Hancock  
E-mail (preferred): [tom.hancock@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:tom.hancock@msfc.nasa.gov)  
Telephone: 256-961-4002  
Please make reservations (or cancellations)  
by 12:00 noon, Monday, October 14.



### ***Our Speaker:***

**Mr. Rex Geveden**  
**Deputy Director, NASA/MSFC Science Directorate**

### ***Our Topic:***

## **Gravity Probe-B**

Mr. Rex Geveden is Deputy Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center's Science Directorate, an organization with more than 600 civil servant and contractor employees who perform a wide array of science activities. Research within the Science Directorate encompasses fields such as materials science, biotechnology, optics, Earth science and space science.

Mr. Geveden has served as Manager of the Science Directorate's Gravity Probe-B (GP-B) Program Office. The GP-B Program will test two key areas of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. This theory, the most fundamental theorem of science about the nature of gravity, has only been partially verified, and results obtained from the GP-B Program could impact fundamental assumptions in physics.

Mr. Geveden has also recently served as Manager of the Microgravity Science and Applications Department within the Science Directorate, supervising more than 350 scientists, engineers, project managers and support personnel who are responsible for development of both ground-based and in-space science experiments, including experiments on the International Space Station.

Mr. Geveden began his NASA career at Marshall in 1990. He was Chief Engineer for the Waves in Space Plasmas Experiment, a study which involved the measurement of the characteristic frequencies of the plasma, comprising more than 99 percent of the visible universe. He became project manager for the Optical Transient Detector and Lightning Imaging Sensor earth orbiting satellites that produced data for the world's first global map of lightning.

Mr. Geveden earned a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Physics and a Master's Degree in Physics from Murray State University in Murray, Ky. He has completed numerous executive and management-level training courses, and has received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal.

## 2002-03 Section Officers and Board of

| Position                | Directors Name           | Business Phone | E-mail address                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairman                | Arloe W. Mayne, Ph.D     | 256/881-7124   | ArloeWJr@cs.com                     |
| Vice Chairman           | Thomas M. Hancock        | 256/961-4002   | tom.hancock@msfc.nasa.gov           |
| Secretary               | Wanda G. Reece           | 256/544-2630   | wanda.reece@msfc.nasa.gov           |
| Treasurer               | Syri Jo Koelfgen         | 256/544-1870   | syri.j.koelfgen@msfc.nasa.gov       |
| Membership              | Victor J. Giuliano       | 256/721-2422   | victor.giuliano@pw.utc.com          |
| Education               | TBD                      |                |                                     |
| Public Policy           | John R. London           | 256/544-0914   | john.london@msfc.nasa.gov           |
| Honors & Awards         | Steven R. Noneman        | 256/544-2048   | steven.noneman@msfc.nasa.gov        |
| Young Professional      | TBD                      |                |                                     |
| Technical               | John Lassiter            | 256/544-3022   | john.o.lassiter@msfc.nasa.gov       |
| Career Enhancement      | J. Wayne McCain, Ph.D.   | 256/233-6501   | drwayne@athens.edu                  |
| Pre-College Outreach    | Victor J. Giuliano       | 256/721-2422   | giuliano@pwfl.com                   |
| Email & Webmaster       | Todd Honeycutt           | 256/430-0753   | thoneycutt@stslc.com                |
| Newsletter Editor       | Gordon A. (Alan) Lowrey  | 256/544-7684   | gordon.lowrey@msfc.nasa.gov         |
| Evolution of Flight     | Alfred M. Wright         | 205/876-8037   | alfred.wright@rdc.redstone.army.mil |
| National/RAC            | Bobby G. Noblitt         | 256/461-1993   | BobNoblitt@msn.com                  |
| Supernumerary           | Earl H. Pearce           | 205/467-6349   | epearce@alltel.net                  |
| Mailings                | Eddie T. Lawhorn         | 256/961-4359   | eddie.t.lawhorn@boeing.com          |
| Previous Section Chair  | Gordon A. (Alan) Lowrey  | 256/544-7684   | gordon.lowrey@msfc.nasa.gov         |
| 2000-2001 Section Chair | Robert (Bob) L. Sackheim | 256/544-1938   | bob.sackheim@msfc.nasa.gov          |
| Current UAH Chair       | Angeline Nuar            | 256/584-6861   | nuar@email.uah.edu                  |
| Previous UAH Chair      | Syri Jo Koelfgen         | 256/544-1870   | syri.j.koelfgen@msfc.nasa.gov       |
| AIAA Staff Liason       | Mary Ellen Shook         | 703/264-3848   | maryellens@aiaa.org                 |

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